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Identical letters dated 17 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 15 September 2001 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing flagrant aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 29 August to 7 September 2001 they carried out 182 hostile sorties, including 54 from Saudi Arabia, 46 from Kuwait and 82 from Turkey. On 29 and 30 August 2001 United States and British aircraft engaged in concentrated bombardment of civilian and military locations in Iraq, including the radar system of Basrah International Airport, in Basrah governorate. Those attacks resulted in the wounding of many Iraqi citizens and the destruction of civilian and military installations and sites, as indicated in the statement enclosed herewith.

The Minister reaffirms the condemnation by the Government of Iraq of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory and states that responsibility for them under international law must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 17 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. In the period from 29 August to 7 September 2001 they carried out 182 armed sorties, including 45 from Saudi Arabia, 46 from Kuwait and 82 from Turkey. On 29 and 30 August 2001 United States and British aircraft engaged in concentrated bombardment of civilian and military locations in Iraq, including the radar system of Basrah International Airport, in Basrah governorate. Those attacks resulted in the wounding of many Iraqi citizens and the destruction of civilian and military installations and sites, as indicated in the statement enclosed herewith.

This aggression illustrates the criminal attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials.

The fair-minded nations of the world, including the Arab countries, have condemned the maintenance of the no-flight zones as representing an illegitimate use of force against an independent State. Three countries that are permanent members of the Security Council, namely the Russian Federation, China and France, have stressed the fact that the enforcement of the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq has no basis in any principle of international law. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the former Secretary-General, has stated that the claim made by the United States that Security Council resolution 688 (1991) authorizes the imposition of the no-flight zones is groundless. At his press conference of 27 June 2001, Mr. Kofi A. Annan also said that there was no basis in the resolutions of the Security Council for the imposition of the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq. His actual words were (SG/SM/7865):

> "You know my position on this, and I have indicated that when you analyse and read the Security Council resolutions I do not see the Security Council resolutions as a basis for that."

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the flimsy excuses and pretexts stemming from this illegal decision that are used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support made available by the Governments of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the United States and the United Kingdom, which includes the provision of air bases, has made them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its appeal to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

In condemning these acts of aggression against Iraqi residential areas and civilian and military installations, the Government of Iraq urges you, given that it has been ascertained that there is no basis in the resolutions of the Security Council for the imposition of the no-flight zones, to perform the duties assigned to you as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security, to call upon the Governments of the countries in question to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their ongoing aggression against Iraq — an independent, sovereign State and a founding Member of the United Nations — and to charge the perpetrators of this aggression and the regional parties that have associated themselves with it, namely Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, with full legal responsibility for their persistence in this crime.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Violations of the airspace of the Republic of Iraq by United States and British warplanes from 29 August to 7 September 2001

1. In the northern region 82 armed sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1120 hours on 29 August 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 8 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Baibo, Amadiyah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1130 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1205 hours on 3 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Baibo, Dohuk, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah, Tall Afar, Mosul and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1430 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1100 hours on 4 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Zakho, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1430 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1135 hours on 5 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Irbil, Mosul, Aqrah, Sinjar, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah and Amadiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1430 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1145 hours on 6 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah, Sinjar, Irbil, Mosul, Tall Afar and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1420 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region, 100 armed sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 2125 hours on 29 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait

and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 armed sorties, 6 of them from Saudi airspace with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti airspace and via the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Bosrah, Lasaf, Salman, Shinafiyah, Samawah, Jalibah and Ashbajah areas and engaged in concentrated bombardment of civilian and military locations in Basrah governorate. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 2245 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 2030 hours on 30 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 armed sorties, 8 of them from Saudi airspace with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 6 from Kuwaiti airspace and via the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basrah, Salman, Ashbajah, Lasaf and Jalibah areas and bombarded the radar system of Basrah International Airport. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 2300 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 2100 hours on 31 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 19 armed sorties, 12 of them from Saudi airspace with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 7 from Kuwaiti airspace and via the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Qurnah, Faw, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Najaf, Nukhayb, Lasaf, Salman and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1306 hours on 2 September 2001, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 7 armed sorties from Saudi airspace with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and overflew the Salman, Ashbajah and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1430 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1025 hours on 3 September 2001, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 armed sorties, 13 of them from Saudi airspace with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 5 from Kuwaiti airspace and via the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the suppor. of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Amghar,

Ansab, Abyad, Ar`ar, Makarr al-Na`am, Ashbajah and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1300 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1510 hours on 4 September 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 31 armed sorties, 8 of them from Saudi airspace with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 13 from Kuwaiti airspace and via the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basrah, Samawah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Ashbajah, Lasaf, Jalibah and Afak areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1730 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1955 hours on 7 September 2001, United States and British aircraft of undetermined type and flight altitude, coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters, penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 3 armed sorties from Kuwaiti airspace and via the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Shatrah and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 2030 hours, drove them off.